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Waynesboro's National Guard soldiers train in Mississippi

(Special to the Wayne County News)

Waynesboro's National Guard soldiers of Detachment 1, A Troop, just recently returned home from Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where they have been undergoing two weeks of annual training. The 15 days of mechanized infantry training involved both vehicle and dismounted elements.

Vehicles crews began by learning the basics of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. This culminated with gunnery testing and a move to the range for three days. Crews fired the 25mm main gun and 7.62mm machine gun at targets ranging from 600 to 1400 yards away. It was their first time on the Bradley range and instructors were impressed with their shooting. "The crews came away from the range feeling good about how much they had improved over the past year and looking forward to next year's range firing," said Lt. David Roberts.

Other soldiers in the troop practiced patrolling, conducted raids, and fired rifles and machine guns on small arms ranges. A heavy rain capped off the end of their training, and the soldiers took advantage of the rain as only Waynesboro's Warriors would -- dragging each other into a water filled ditch. It wasn't the Green River, but they made do with what they had. Morale was high throughout their visit to Camp Shelby.

---- By 1st Lt. David Roberts

Armory Open House July 14

The Waynesboro National Guard Armory has been undergoing a major face lift over the past six months. Unit soldiers invite the public to stop by Saturday, July 14th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., to see the changes and meet members of their local National Guard. Refreshments will be served.

Cutlines

#1 Staff Sgt. Shawn Caperton and Sgt. Jeremy Simmons of Collinwood sit atop their Bradley Fighting Vehicle awaiting their turn to fire. Their driver is Pvt. Donald Millen of Waynesboro.

#2 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Sanderson of Collinwood (center) waits with his soldiers as a UH-60 Blackhawk lands to pick them up for a raid.

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